

Report on the implementation of the Malta Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Persons
January 2015- December 2016

Submitted in accordance with the Action: “The submission of a progress report to the Prime Minister, once every 6 months”

Report for January-June 2015

During the first 6 months of 2015 actions were undertaken with a view to implementing Malta’s Third National Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Persons (January 2015 – December 2016). The National Action Plan presents a framework for addressing trafficking for labour exploitation, prioritising effective responses to the needs and voice of victims and their rights by increasing awareness among stakeholders working in the field as well as targeted information addressing civil society in general. In addition, a second national research is envisaged to help to achieve a better vision of the phenomenon amongst women migrants in Malta.

Throughout the first six months of implementation of the Action Plan, certain action addressed measures requiring ongoing attention, as well as other measures, in particular those that were to be concluded during the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2015.

Action was taken as follows with regard to measures to be implemented on an ongoing basis:

- **The regular convening of the Human Trafficking Monitoring Committee and the Stakeholder Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings;**
- **The submission of a progress report to the Prime Minister, once every 6 month;**
- **Liaison with EU and international bodies addressing human trafficking issues, including the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and the Council of Europe’s Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA); and**
- **Participation in international conferences and events, including meetings hosted by the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator.**

Other measures contemplated by this Action Plan, would also contribute towards the ongoing implementation by Malta of the objectives of The EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016 and Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/EC.

- **Focused training relating to trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, with a view to improving capacity for the identification of this crime;**
Training related to the extraction of intelligence; and
Training for diplomatic and consular personnel: possibly held through the utilisation of video conferencing facilities.

During the reporting period preparations were ongoing for the organisation of such training events to be held in July 2015. Such training will be organised and funded through a second project contracted between the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to provide international experts to deliver this training.

- **Fostering awareness among stakeholders and potential victims, including through the distribution of information material relating to human trafficking.**
Stakeholders in the migration sphere would be alerted to the potential for exploitation among beneficiaries of international protection and asylum seekers.

Similarly during the reporting period, preparations were ongoing between the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security and IOM experts to prepare leaflets for the diplomatic and consular personnel to distribute through their offices abroad amongst persons wishing to come and work in Malta.

- **Review of available statistical data relating to recognised human trafficking cases as well as potential cases with a view to better disaggregate such data in accordance with established best practices**

The Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security takes the lead in implementing measures addressing human trafficking and is also responsible to provide administrative support to the Anti Human Trafficking Monitoring Committee. One of the responsibilities of this Committee is to keep a database as well as provide information to both local and foreign entities requiring information about the situation in Malta. Thus the database, which has been created for the purpose, has been reviewed and updated in accordance with requirements established by the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016 and Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/EC.

In addition, the forthcoming meeting of the National Rapporteurs which is chaired by the EU Anti Trafficking Coordinator shall be inviting the national statistics office of each Member State to participate in the discussions for the way forward in collecting and storing of data in relation to human trafficking cases.

Efforts are ongoing by national entities in their obligation to better prevent and address human trafficking. The following developments were registered:

- **The Police, during the reporting period uncovered 2 new cases and 3 people were arraigned in Court with charges of human trafficking. 2 Victims are currently being assisted by the social welfare services as well as NGOs.**
- **At its 16th meeting, on the 15th June 2015, the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe considered the report submitted by the Government of Malta on measures taken to implement the Committee of the Parties' recommendation on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The Committee congratulated the Maltese Government for the various initiatives taken in light of GRETA's first evaluation report on Malta. GRETA will visit Malta once more as part of the second round of evaluations of the implementation of the Convention, which shall take place during 2016.**
- **In April 2015, new legal provisions prescribed the enactment of the Victims of Crime Act (Cap 539 of the laws of Malta) to further enhance the rights of the victims of crime who are particularly vulnerable, including victims of human trafficking. Part II of the same Act contains specific measures relating to victims of human trafficking and minors victims of human trafficking. Such provisions include entitlement to receive support from the point of identification until the conclusion of the criminal proceedings in order to enable the victim to exercise the rights set out in the related Directive. Protection**

rights extend to all victims of human trafficking particularly including rights of minor victims as well as those of unaccompanied minor victims.
